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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/626,803	07/27/2000	Robert B Gillig	GIL-001	9737

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WHITE & FUDALA
57 BEDFORD STREET
SUITE 103
LEXINGTON, MA 02420

EXAMINER

VAUGHN, GREGORY J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2003

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/626,803

Applicant(s)

GILLIG, ROBERT B

Examiner

Gregory J. Vaughn

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 July 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Application History

1. This action is responsive to the application filing, Application filed on 7/27/2000.
2. Claims 1-26 are pending in the case, claims 1 and 14 are independent claims.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description:

- "34" in Figure 2.
- "36" in Figure 2.
- "44" in Figure 2.
- "74" in Figure 4.
- "94" in Figure 5.
- "110" in Figure 6.
- "116" in Figure 7.

A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
- The disclosure recites: "*Figure 2 also shows the internal workings 38 of the database program*" (page 13, line 13). Reference sign 38 in Figure 2 is directed toward "*Linking Software Internal Workings*".
 - The disclosure recites: "*the button to the left of the project window 76*" (page 14, line 17). Reference sign 76 is directed toward a text box, not a button.
 - The disclosure fails to disclose those reference signs listed in paragraph 3 above, which are shown in the drawings.
 - Claim 21 (page 21, line 22) appears to be incomplete, as if a line was left off the page. Claim 21 is repeated on page 22, line 1.

Appropriate correction is required.

5. The use of the following trademarks has been noted in this application:
- "WINDOWS" first used on page 6, line 5.
 - "MASTERSPEC" first used on page 11, line 10.
 - "MS WORD" first used on page 17, lines 1-2.

It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to

prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

"The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention."
7. Claims 15-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.
8. **In regard to claim 15**, the claim recites the limitation "*the first database*" in line 9 of page 12. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
9. **In regard to claims 16-26**, the claims are dependent upon claim 15 and are rejected for fully incorporating the deficiencies of the base claim.
10. Claims 18-20 include the limitation "*the first database*" in lines 16, 19 and 21 on page 21. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claims 22-26 are dependent upon claims 15, 18-21 and are rejected for fully incorporating the deficiencies of the base claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

"A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States."

12. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rossberg et al. US Patent 5,341,469 (filed 5/13/1991, patented 8/23/1994).

"Rossberg et al." is hereafter referred to as "Rossberg".

13. In regard to independent claim 1, the claim recites:

"A data processing-based method of generating and maintaining Project textual documentation comprising the steps of:

- *producing a plurality of Drawing Entities for a current Project;*
- *storing the Drawing Entities in a first database;*
- *producing a plurality of Specifications Text Blocks;*
- *storing the Specifications Text Blocks in a second database;*
- *linking each Drawing Entity from the current Project with one or more Specifications Text Blocks, creating a plurality of current Specifications Text to Blocks thereby;*
- *assembling each current Specifications Text Block into a Specifications Document in accordance with an indexing scheme; and*
- *outputting the Specifications Document.*

The first limitation of the claim is directed toward producing drawings. Rossberg anticipates the limitation. Rossberg recites: *"Still another object of the present invention is to provide a computer system having both graphics and text manipulation facilities"* (column 2, lines 49-51) and Rossberg shows the use of CAD software in Figure 6B.

The second limitation of the claim is directed toward storing the drawings in a database. Rossberg anticipates the limitation. Rossberg recites: *"A computer aided drafting system ... that include data bases,"* (column 2, lines 20-25).

The third limitation of the claim is directed toward producing text blocks. Rossberg anticipates the limitation. Rossberg recites: *"Still another object of the*

present invention is to provide a computer system having both graphics and text manipulation facilities" (column 2, lines 49-51) and Rossberg shows the use of Word Perfect and other text editors in Figure 6A.

The forth limitation is directed toward storing the text blocks in a database. Rossberg anticipates the limitation. Rossberg recites: *"In the preceding conceptual discussion, the data base was presented as a single relational data base. In the preferred embodiment, it is broken into three separate databases roughly along the lines indicated by FIGS. 3A through 3C. Furthermore, the data base is not implemented in the relational model, but rather as a collection of data structures"* (column 16, lines 41-47).

The fifth limitation is directed toward linking the drawings to the text blocks. Rossberg anticipates the limitation. Rossberg discloses drawings (shown as *"Project Drawings"*) combined with text (shown as *"Master Keynote List"*) in Figure 1. Rossberg also recites *"still another object of the present invention is to provide a computer system having both graphics and text manipulation facilities for linking project drawings with a master specification system"* (column 2, lines 49-52).

The sixth limitation of the claim is directed toward creating a *"Specifications"* document from the text blocks. Rossberg anticipates the limitation. Rossberg discloses a *"Project Specification"* document resultant from a process that includes the text blocks as input in Figure 1.

The final limitation to the claim is directed toward outputting the Specifications Document. Rossberg anticipates the limitation. Rossberg discloses a process result

of a "*Project Specification*" document in Figure 1, and the system having a display and a printer in Figure 2.

14. In regard to dependent claim 2, the claim recites:

"The method of claim 1, wherein the first database contains Drawing Entities from previous Projects, and wherein the second database contains Specifications Text Blocks from previous Projects."

The claim is directed toward the reuse of drawings and text blocks from previous projects. Rossberg anticipates the limitation. In regard to the reuse of drawings, Rossberg discloses "*standardized details*" (column 6, line 7). In regard to the reuse of text blocks Rossberg recites: "*The present system set out in FIG. 1 incorporates a master specification 21 that can be the MASTERSPEC or SPECTEXT systems, as identified in the prior art, or other systems within the scope of this disclosure. The master specification is an integral data base component, with an ordered list of text elements*" (column 3, lines 55-60).

15. In regard to dependent claim 3, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 2, and is rejected with the same rational.

16. In regard to dependent claim 4, the claim recites:

"The method of claim 3, wherein the Drawing Entities further comprise text entities."

The claim is directed toward drawings that are text in nature. Rossberg anticipates the limitation. Rossberg recites "Additional sources of information can also be used to augment the project knowledge base in the editing process. Standardized details, as may also contain the standard keynotes of the present

system, standard symbols, material attributes, product information, and other types of information on the drawings" (column 6, lines 5-10).

17. In regard to dependent claim 5, the claim recites:

"The method of claim 4, further comprising:

- *searching the first database for a Drawing Entity; and*
- *incorporating a found Drawing Entity into the current Project."*

The claim is directed toward searching for a drawing and incorporating it into a project. Rossberg anticipates the limitation. Rossberg discloses a "Project Knowledge Base" that is derived from "Project Drawings" and "Master Keynote List" in Figure 1. Rossberg discloses searching the knowledge base "*information obtained in the form of specific answers to specific questions*" (column 11, lines 32-34). Rossberg discloses "Knowledge Base Maintenance" (column 22, line 35) where "*The user may instruct the librarian to insert any number of Answer Source files*" (column 22, lines 44-46), where an answer source file is defined in Figure 6 as "CAD" drawings and "Keynotes".

18. In regard to dependent claim 6, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 1, and is rejected with the same rational.

19. In regard to dependent claim 7, the claim recites:

"The method of claim 6, further comprising editing a Specifications Text Block in the second database."

The claim is directed toward editing a text block. Rossberg anticipates the limitation. Rossberg recites: "*These changes can be incorporated into the project*

knowledge base 23, and the master specification 21 sections can be re-edited accordingly" (column 6, lines 65-67).

20. In regard to dependent claim 8, the claim recites:

"The method of claim 7, wherein the Specifications Document is related to a field of professional endeavor belonging to a group consisting of Industrial Design, Interior Design, Architectural Design, Engineering Design."

The claim is directed toward a specific field of professional endeavor. Rossberg anticipates the limitation. Rossberg recites: *"This invention relates to systems that utilize computers for performing operations on data obtained from a user or stored data to produce a set of printed documents which constitute a project specific specification that is coordinated with a set of drawings to produce a set of plans and specifications for an architectural or engineering project"* (column 1, lines 6-12).

21. In regard to dependent claim 9, the claim recites:

"The method of claim 8, wherein the Specifications Document is comprised of Architectural documentation, and the indexing scheme is the MASTERSPEC numbering system."

The claim is directed toward architectural documentation and the use of the MASTERSPEC system. The architectural documentation limitation is anticipated by Rossberg, as described in the previous paragraph. Rossberg anticipates the MASTERSPEC limitation. Rossberg recites: *"The present system set out in FIG. 1 incorporates a master specification 21 that can be the MASTERSPEC or SPECTEXT systems, as identified in the prior art, or other systems within the scope of this disclosure"* (column 3, lines 55-58).

22. **In regard to dependent claim 10**, the claim recites:

"The method of claim 9, wherein the Drawing Entities are produced by a CADD computer program."

The claim is directed toward the use of CADD software. Rossberg anticipates the claim. Rossberg discloses the use of a "CAD" system in Figure 6.

23. **In regard to dependent claim 11**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 1, and is rejected with the same rational.

24. **In regard to dependent claim 12**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 1, and is rejected with the same rational.

25. **In regard to dependent claim 13**, the claim recites:

"The method of claim 12, wherein the method is effected by one or more members of the group consisting of stand-alone computers, computer networks, and remote data communications networks."

The claim is directed defining the hardware of the invention. Rossberg anticipates the claim. Rossberg discloses the use of a computer in Figure 2.

26. **In regard to independent claim 14**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 1, and is rejected with the same rational.

27. **In regard to dependent claim 15**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 2, and is rejected with the same rational.

28. **In regard to dependent claim 16**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 3, and is rejected with the same rational.

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29. **In regard to dependent claim 17**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 4, and is rejected with the same rational.
30. **In regard to dependent claim 18**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 5, and is rejected with the same rational.
31. **In regard to dependent claims 19 and 20**, the claims contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 6, and are rejected with the same rational.
32. **In regard to dependent claim 21** (recited on page 21), the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 8, and is rejected with the same rational.
33. **In regard to dependent claim 21** (recited on page 22, renumbered to claim 22), the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 8, and is rejected with the same rational.
34. **In regard to dependent claim 22** (renumbered to claim 23), the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 9, and is rejected with the same rational.
35. **In regard to dependent claim 23** (renumbered to claim 24), the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 10, and is rejected with the same rational.

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36. **In regard to dependent claim 24** (renumbered to claim 25), the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 11, and is rejected with the same rational.
37. **In regard to dependent claim 25** (renumbered to claim 26), the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 12, and is rejected with the same rational.
38. **In regard to dependent claim 26** (renumbered to claim 27), the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 13, and is rejected with the same rational.
39. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

<u>Patent</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Inventor</u>
• US-4,496,989	01-1985	Hirosawa, Makoto
• US-4,641,197	02-1987	Miyagi, Ken
• US-4,882,692	11-1989	Saxton et al.
• US-5,197,120 A	03-1993	Saxton et al.
• US-5,241,472 A	08-1993	Gur et al.
• US-5,249,137 A	09-1993	Wilson et al.
• US-5,410,647 A	04-1995	Peaslee et al.
• US-5,428,727 A	06-1995	Kurosu et al.
• US-5,437,008 A	07-1995	Gay et al.
• US-5,444,843 A	08-1995	Nilsson et al.
• US-5,745,907	04-1998	Yamamoto, Kunihiro
• US-5,813,018 A	09-1998	Kaji et al.

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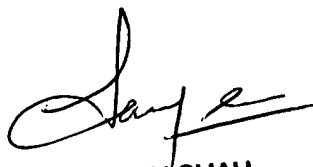
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Vaughn whose telephone number is (703) 305-4672. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R. Herndon can be reached at (703) 308-5186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Gregory J. Vaughn
November 4, 2003


SANJIV SHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER